

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 5169  
OFFERED BY MR. BRADY OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “What Works to Move  
3 Welfare Recipients into Jobs Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING WELFARE RESEARCH AND EVAL-  
5 UATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A WHAT  
6 WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE.**

7 Section 413 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 613) is amended to read as follows:

**9 “SEC. 413. EVALUATION OF TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR  
10 NEEDY FAMILIES AND RELATED PROGRAMS.**

11 “(a) EVALUATION OF THE IMPACTS OF TANF.—The  
12 Secretary shall conduct research on the effect of State pro-  
13 grams funded under this part and any other State pro-  
14 gram funded with qualified State expenditures (as defined  
15 in section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) on employment, self-suffi-  
16 ciency, child well-being, unmarried births, marriage, pov-  
17 erty, economic mobility, and other factors as determined  
18 by the Secretary.

1           “(b) EVALUATION OF GRANTS TO IMPROVE CHILD  
2 WELL-BEING BY PROMOTING HEALTHY MARRIAGE AND  
3 RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD.—The Secretary shall con-  
4 duct research to determine the effects of the grants made  
5 under section 403(a)(2) on child well-being, marriage,  
6 family stability, economic mobility, poverty, and other fac-  
7 tors as determined by the Secretary.

8           “(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-  
9 retary shall, in consultation with States receiving funds  
10 provided under this part, develop methods of dissemi-  
11 nating information on any research, evaluation, or study  
12 conducted under this section, including facilitating the  
13 sharing of information and best practices among States  
14 and localities.

15           “(d) STATE-INITIATED EVALUATIONS.—A State shall  
16 be eligible to receive funding to evaluate the State pro-  
17 gram funded under this part or any other State program  
18 funded with qualified State expenditures (as defined in  
19 section 409(a)(7)(B)(i)) if—

20                   “(1) the State submits to the Secretary a de-  
21 scription of the proposed evaluation;

22                   “(2) the Secretary determines that the design  
23 and approach of the proposed evaluation is rigorous  
24 and is likely to yield information that is credible and  
25 will be useful to other States; and

1           “(3) unless waived by the Secretary, the State  
2           contributes to the cost of the evaluation, from non-  
3           Federal sources, an amount equal to at least 25 per-  
4           cent of the cost of the proposed evaluation.

5           “(e) CENSUS BUREAU RESEARCH.—

6           “(1) The Bureau of the Census shall implement  
7           or enhance household surveys of program participa-  
8           tion, in consultation with the Secretary and the  
9           Bureau of Labor Statistics and made available to  
10          interested parties, to allow for the assessment of the  
11          outcomes of continued welfare reform on the eco-  
12          nomic and child well-being of low-income families  
13          with children, including those who received assist-  
14          ance or services from a State program funded under  
15          this part or any other State program funded with  
16          qualified State expenditures (as defined in section  
17          409(a)(7)(B)(i)). The content of the surveys should  
18          include such information as may be necessary to ex-  
19          amine the issues of unmarried childbearing, mar-  
20          riage, welfare dependency and compliance with work  
21          requirements, the beginning and ending of spells of  
22          assistance, work, earnings and employment stability,  
23          and the well-being of children.

24          “(2) To carry out the activities specified in  
25          paragraph (1), the Bureau of the Census, the Sec-

1       retary, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics shall con-  
2       sider ways to improve the surveys and data derived  
3       from the surveys to—

4               “(A) address underreporting of the receipt  
5       of means-tested benefits and tax benefits for  
6       low-income individuals and families;

7               “(B) increase understanding of poverty  
8       spells and long-term poverty, including by facili-  
9       tating the matching of information to better un-  
10      derstand intergenerational poverty;

11              “(C) generate a better geographical under-  
12      standing of poverty such as through State-  
13      based estimates and measures of neighborhood  
14      poverty;

15              “(D) increase understanding of the effects  
16      of means-tested benefits and tax benefits on the  
17      earnings of low-income families; and

18              “(E) improve how poverty and economic  
19      well-being are measured, including through the  
20      use of consumption measures.

21              “(f) RESEARCH AND EVALUATION CONDUCTED  
22      UNDER THIS SECTION.—Research and evaluation con-  
23      ducted under this section designed to determine the effects  
24      of a program or policy (other than research conducted  
25      under subsection (e)) shall use experimental designs using

1 random assignment or other reliable, evidence-based re-  
2 search methodologies that allow for the strongest possible  
3 causal inferences when random assignment is not feasible.

4 “(g) DEVELOPMENT OF WHAT WORKS CLEARING-  
5 HOUSE OF PROVEN AND PROMISING APPROACHES TO  
6 MOVE WELFARE RECIPIENTS INTO WORK.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-  
8 tion with the Secretary of Labor, shall develop a  
9 database (which shall be referred to as the ‘What  
10 Works Clearinghouse of Proven and Promising  
11 Projects to Move Welfare Recipients into Work’) of  
12 the projects that used a proven approach or a prom-  
13 ising approach in moving welfare recipients into  
14 work, based on independent, rigorous evaluations of  
15 the projects. The database shall include a separate  
16 listing of projects that used a developmental ap-  
17 proach in delivering services and a further separate  
18 listing of the projects with no or negative effects.  
19 The Secretary shall add to the What Works Clear-  
20 ingshouse of Proven and Promising Projects to Move  
21 Welfare Recipients into Work data about the  
22 projects that, based on an independent, well-con-  
23 ducted experimental evaluation of a program or  
24 project, using random assignment or other research  
25 methodologies that allow for the strongest possible

1 causal inferences, have shown they are proven,  
2 promising, developmental, or ineffective approaches.

3 “(2) CRITERIA FOR EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVE-  
4 NESS OF APPROACH.—The Secretary, in consultation  
5 with the Secretary of Labor and organizations with  
6 experience in evaluating research on the effective-  
7 ness of various approaches in delivering services to  
8 move welfare recipients into work, shall—

9 “(A) establish criteria for evidence of effec-  
10 tiveness; and

11 “(B) ensure that the process for estab-  
12 lishing the criteria—

13 “(i) is transparent;

14 “(ii) is consistent across agencies;

15 “(iii) provides opportunity for public  
16 comment; and

17 “(iv) takes into account efforts of  
18 Federal agencies to identify and publicize  
19 effective interventions, including efforts at  
20 the Department of Health and Human  
21 Services, the Department of Education,  
22 and the Department of Justice.

23 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1           “(A) APPROACH.—The term ‘approach’  
2 means a process, product, strategy, or practice  
3 that is—

4           “(i) research-based, based on the re-  
5 sults of 1 or more empirical studies, and  
6 linked to program-determined outcomes;  
7 and

8           “(ii) evaluated using rigorous research  
9 designs.

10          “(B) PROVEN APPROACH.—The term  
11 ‘proven approach’ means an approach that—

12          “(i) meets the requirements of a  
13 promising approach; and

14          “(ii) has demonstrated significant  
15 positive outcomes at more than 1 site in  
16 terms of increasing work and earnings of  
17 participants, reducing poverty and depend-  
18 ence, or strengthening families.

19          “(C) PROMISING APPROACH.—The term  
20 ‘promising approach’ means an approach—

21          “(i) that meets the requirements of  
22 subparagraph (D)(i);

23          “(ii) that has been evaluated using  
24 well-designed and rigorous randomized

1 controlled or quasi-experimental research  
2 designs;

3 “(iii) that has demonstrated signifi-  
4 cant positive outcomes at only 1 site in  
5 terms of increasing work and earnings of  
6 participants, reducing poverty and depend-  
7 ence, or strengthening families; and

8 “(iv) under which the benefits of the  
9 positive outcomes have exceeded the costs  
10 of achieving the outcomes.

11 “(D) DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH.—The  
12 term ‘developmental approach’ means an ap-  
13 proach that—

14 “(i) is research-based, grounded in  
15 relevant empirically-based knowledge, and  
16 linked to program-determined outcomes;

17 “(ii) is evaluated using rigorous re-  
18 search designs; and

19 “(iii) has yet to demonstrate a signifi-  
20 cant positive outcome in terms of increas-  
21 ing work and earnings of participants in a  
22 cost-effective way.”.

1 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       The amendment made by this Act shall take effect  
3 on October 1, 2016.

